

BOARD BRIEFS

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Welcome to the first issue of *Board Briefs*, a publication of the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (ASBCS). The purpose of this brief is to provide accurate, timely information to the charter community, the legislature, and to the general public on the current news and activities of this Board and the charter schools we sponsor.

We hope that you will provide us with feedback and information that may be applicable for dissemination in this bulletin.

Since this issue coincides with the beginning of the school year we felt it would be appropriate to provide you with updated statistics on the charter school landscape.

Sponsor	Charter Schools	Charter Sites	Estimated Student Count	% of student count by sponsor
ASBCS	244	332	47,000	73%
State Board	63	84	14,000	22%
Districts (9)	25	45	3,500	5%
Total	332	461	64,500	100%

August Summary

New Charter School Application and Transfer Application– In collaboration with individuals from the charter community, the Board adopted new applications for 2003-2004. Both are available on our website at www.asbcs.state.az.us.

Fingerprint Clearance Card –The Legislature, in special session this summer, approved Senate Bill 1008, which requires all persons engaged in instructional work directly as a classroom, laboratory or other teacher or indirectly as a supervisory teacher, speech therapist or principal shall have a valid class one or class two fingerprint clearance card. Guidance regarding the changes was sent via email to all schools sponsored by this Board. It is also available on our website at www.asbcs.state.az.us.

September Summary

AZ LEARNS – The ASBCS and members of the charter community have had the opportunity to hear presentations and be included in workgroups pertaining to the new student accountability system. School labels will be public information on October 15. MAP and AIMS scores are used to determine elementary labels. AIMS scores and graduation and drop out rates are components of the high school formula. For a detailed description of AZ LEARNS, a PowerPoint presentation is available under School Resources at www.asbcs.state.az.us. The State Board of Education will meet September 23, 2002 to adopt the new student accountability system.

School Stuff – We'd like to include the good things that are happening at your school in *Board Briefs*. Please share with us some "good news" and we will try to include it in future issues.